Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

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1. **(Currently Amended)** A self-describing peripheral device for being integrated with a computer operating system, said device comprising:

at least one hardware component resident in said device; and

at least one description subsystem resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

said at least one description subsystem being adapted to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system;

said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system, wherein said interface logic is adapted to provide a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

non-volatile memory;

said interface logic being adapted to control said non-volatile memory.

4. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate identification of said device.

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5. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a device driver;

said interface logic being adapted to facilitate the provision of information to a computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.--

6. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to assist a computer operating system in obtaining a copy of a device driver for installation in said device.

7. **(Cancelled)**

8. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 7, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said interface logic is adapted to facilitate the updating of device driver information stored on said device.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

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11. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to prompt usage of said locally stored device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.

12. **(Previously Presented)** The device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a locally stored device driver, stored on said device;

said interface logic being adapted to compare said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

13. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a printer.

14. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a modem.

15. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a graphics card.

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16. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a sound card.

17. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a IDE disk controller.

18. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a SCSI disk controller.

19. **(Original)** The device according to Claim 1, wherein said device comprises a network controller.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A method of integrating a self-describing peripheral device with a computer operating system, said method comprising:

providing at least one hardware component to be resident in said device;

providing at least one description subsystem to be resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

adapting said at least one description subsystem to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system, said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system; and

facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via said at least one description subsystem, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises providing a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

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21. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises facilitating identification of said device.

22. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

providing a device driver associated with said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising facilitating the provision of information to a computer operating system relating to the version of said device driver.

23. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises assisting a computer operating system in obtaining a copy of a device driver for installation in said device.

24. **(Cancelled)**

25. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises the updating of a network location at which a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

26. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises facilitating the updating of device driver information stored on said

device.

27. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

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storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and to prompt usage of the newer version.

28. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising prompting usage of said locally stored device driver if a remotely stored device driver is not accessible.

29. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device driver with a remotely stored device driver at predetermined time intervals so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version.

30. **(Original)** The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

storing a device driver locally on said device;

said facilitating of integration comprising comparing said locally stored device

driver with a remotely stored device driver so as to determine which of said device drivers is of a newer version and querying a user to choose between versions.

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31. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for:

providing at least one hardware component to be resident in said device;

providing at least one description subsystem to be resident in said device and associated with said at least one hardware component;

adapting said at least one description subsystem to facilitate integration of said device with a computer operating system, said at least one description subsystem comprising interface logic for interpreting commands received over an interface between said device and a computer operating system; and

facilitating integration of said device with a computer operating system via said at least one description subsystem, wherein said facilitating of integration comprises providing a reference to a network location where a recent version of a device driver is obtainable.

32. **(Cancelled)**